

26. *CHRYSOTIS LEVAILLANTI*, G. R. Gray: Finsch, Papag. ii. p. 580.

This species, which has received a number of names (*cf.* Finsch, *l. c.*), is best known from Mexico, where most of the travellers who have visited that country seem to have met with it. Deppe sent specimens of it to the Berlin Museum as long ago as 1824; and Sallé and Boucard both obtained it at Rio Grande and Playa Vicente (*cf.* *Sci. P. Z. S.* 1857, p. 230, et 1859, p. 389). According to Finsch, it has been sent from the Tres Marias Islands; and a specimen of it from Jalapa is stated to be in the Heine collection. In Guatemala I have no certain knowledge of its occurrence, though I have little doubt it may be found at Peten and the adjoining districts of Yucatan. At Belize it may frequently be seen as a cage-bird, being doubtless found in the neighbouring forests.

27. *PSITTACULA CYANOPYGA*, Souancé: Finsch, Papag. ii. p. 662, et *Abh. Nat. Ver. zu Bremen*, 1870, p. 352.

This species has been recently obtained in the Tres Marias Islands, off the coast of Western Mexico, by Col. Grayson, and forwarded to the Bremen Museum (*cf.* Finsch, *l. c.*). The avifauna of this group of islands is most remarkable, and, viewed with reference to the geographical distribution of species, offers a most perplexing problem for solution. At present we probably know only a fragment of their whole bird population, which well merits the attention of some enterprising naturalist.

VII.—*Descriptions of Two new Species of African Birds.*

By R. B. SHARPE, F.L.S., Libr. Z.S.

IN a collection recently sent to me from Fantee by His Excellency Governor Ussher I have received many very interesting birds, details of which I hope shortly to be able to lay before the readers of 'The Ibis;' but I may be pardoned for at once bringing before their notice one of the most interesting ornithological discoveries likely to be made for some time, being no less than a new species of *Scotopelia*, which I propose to call, after Mr. Ussher, the discoverer of this fine novelty:—

SCOTOPELIA USSHERI, sp. n.

S. ferruginea, suprâ unicolor: subtùs dilutior, rachibus plumarum angustè brunneo notatis: alarum et caudæ plumis in pogonio interno nigro fasciatis, illarum latiùs, hujus angustius: tibiis fulvescentibus unicoloribus. Long. tot. 19·5 poll. angl., alæ 12·5, caudæ 7·5, tarsi 2·1.

The above short description is quite sufficient to separate the new Owl from the well-known *Scotopelia peli*, from which it differs in the following characters, viz. in its smaller size, in the uniform rufous colouring of the upper surface, and in the different coloration of the lower surface of the body, which is rust-coloured, everywhere distinctly striped with dark brown along the centre of the feather. In *S. peli* the centre of the breast is rich cream-colour, while only the sides of the body are streaked with rufous brown, these streaks having rather the appearance of longitudinal drops on the plumage. The disparity in size between the two species is evinced by the following measurements:—

		Long. tot.	Al.	Caud.	Tarsi.
1.	<i>Scotopelia peli</i> . Ex Zambesi	22·0	17·0	10·5	2·4
2.	<i>Scotopelia ussheri</i> . Ex Fantee ..	19·5	12·5	7·5	2·1

While on the subject of African ornithology, I may draw attention to a species of Finch in my collection, which appears not to have been described, and which I propose to name

POLIOSPIZA CROCOPYGIA, sp. n.

♂. *P.* suprâ pallidè fusca, plumis medialiter obscurioribus: lineâ superciliari et striâ suboculari albidis: genis fuscis: tectricibus alarum, remigibus et rectricibus nigricanti-fuscis, pallidè fusco marginatis: dorso postico et uropygio cum tectricibus supracaudalibus lætissimè sulphureis, his fusco mixtis: gulâ, abdomine et tectricibus subcaudalibus purè albis: pectore superiore et hypochondriis fuscis: subalaribus albidis, sulphureo lavatis: gulâ mediâ et laterali maculis fuscis parvulis notatis: rostro pallidè brunneo, mandibulâ albescente: pedibus fusco-brunneis.

♀ mari omnino similis, sed subalaribus flavo haud tinctis.

Above pale greyish-brown, the middle of the feathers darker, giving a striped appearance on the head, and mottled on the back; lower part of the back, rump, and upper tail-coverts bright sulphur-yellow, the latter somewhat tinged with brown, owing to the basal portion of the feather being of this colour;

wing-coverts, quills, and tail-feathers dusky brown, edged with paler whitish brown; a superciliary line and a small stripe under the eye white; throat white, marked irregularly down the side and in the middle with dusky brown spots; ear-coverts, upper part of the breast, and flanks pale greyish brown; abdomen and under tail-coverts pure white; bill pale horn-brown, lower mandible much paler and inclining to yellowish white; feet dusky brown. Total length 5·3 inches, wing 3·35, tail 2·1, tarsus 0·7.

Hab. Damara Land (*C. J. Andersson*).

This bird seems to be the South-African representative of *Poliospiza xanthopygia* (Rüpp.), a careful description of which is given by Dr. von Heuglin (*Orn. Nordost-Afr.* p. 641), but is considerably larger in all its dimensions. At first sight it might be taken for *Crithagra albogularis*, Smith (*S. Afr. Q. Journ.* ii. p. 48), but differs in the bright sulphur-coloured rump being common to both sexes, whereas in *C. albogularis* the female has the rump uniform with the back. *Poliospiza crococygia* is also much lighter in coloration than *C. albogularis*.

VIII.—*Letters, Extracts from Correspondence, Announcements, &c.*

INSTEAD of the articles entitled "*Recent Ornithological Publications*" which have hitherto appeared in 'The Ibis,' the Editor proposes to give in the October number of each year notices of all books and papers relating to Ornithology published during the preceding year. These will be arranged in alphabetical order, and will contain such remarks as each publication seems to call for. It is believed that this plan will render this portion of 'The Ibis' less ephemeral in its nature, and that it will be useful as a permanent index for reference.

In order to make this article as perfect as possible, Contributors to 'The Ibis' and all other ornithologists are requested to forward to the Editor, before the 1st of July next, a complete list of their publications during the year 1870.

We have received the following letters addressed to "The Editor of 'The Ibis'":—